

## *Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk*

Valerie Espinoza was elected to the Office of Santa Fe County Clerk in 2004 and reelected in 2008. She is the Chief Election Officer for the county, and the official county recorder. Ms. Espinoza enjoys serving the citizens of Santa Fe County and proudly gives credit to her staff for helping streamline and improve the services of the County Clerk's Office. As a public official she believes in maintaining the public's trust by following a high standard of integrity and ethical behavior.

Since taking office on January 1, 2005, Ms. Espinoza has succeeded in getting all of Santa Fe's polling locations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, helped pass legislation for an all paper ballot voting system in New Mexico, and successfully implemented this system in Santa Fe County prior to the general election of 2006. In addition, at her direction county voter records have been updated, which in turn updated the State Voter Registration System, and she has had all voter registration forms scanned into the electronic voter registration file.

As the custodian of public records recorded in the Clerk's Office, it is the Clerk's responsibility to carefully protect and preserve recorded documents for public access, inspection and use. Ms. Espinoza is committed to computerizing all recorded documents and to implementing e-filing/e-recording. The records from 2004 to the present time are computerized; and e-filing/e-recording is in the beginning phase. The computerization of records from 1848 to 2003 is in progress through various scanning and indexing projects. These projects will take some time to complete because of limited funds, time, and staff. Additional funding for temporary staff totally devoted to scanning, digitizing, and indexing will make possible the completion of the preservation projects prior to the end of her administration as County Clerk. Once the scanning, digitizing, and indexing of the records is complete the original documents will be transferred to the New Mexico State Archives for preservation.

Ms. Espinoza received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of Santa Fe in Organizational Psychology, and her Associate of Applied Science Degree from Northern New Mexico Community College in Human Services. She is a recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for the Local Government Leadership Program of New Mexico, was named the Capital City Professional and Business Woman of the Year in 2009, and is an animal rights advocate.

She is New Mexico's delegate Director on IACREOT's board (International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials & Treasurers), an organization that promotes professional development and international networking opportunities with peers in all levels of government. Ms. Espinoza serves on the board of New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC), a united "voice for all counties in New Mexico."